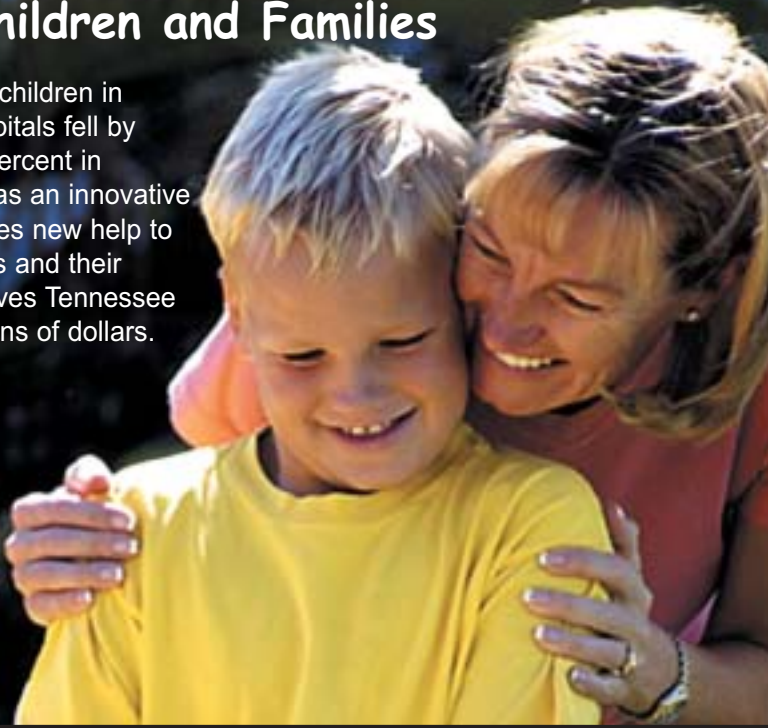


# TDMHDD Update

## Crisis Program Reduces Hospitalizations Helps Children and Families

The number of children in psychiatric hospitals fell by more than 40 percent in recent months as an innovative program provides new help to children in crisis and their families and saves Tennessee taxpayers millions of dollars.



**T**he new approach, pioneered by Youth Villages, is having a profound impact on the lives of hundreds of Tennessee children, adolescents and their families, while saving taxpayer money. During the first six months of the Specialized Crisis Services program, records show that the average daily census of children and adolescents in psychiatric hospitals statewide dropped 44 percent.

The decline represents savings of approximately \$2 million, according to Youth Villages' estimates, and comes from an innovative partnership with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and AdvoCare, the behavioral health

care arm of TennCare. As a result, more children receive more effective, less expensive help in their own communities.

"The savings are significant. But for us, the chance to help children and families receive better help is most important," said Patrick W. Lawler, the Youth Villages chief executive officer. "We put kids first. Our goal is to provide the most appropriate, most effective care for each child and help empower parents to take responsibility for their children."

"Hospitalization remains the best option in severe cases," Lawler said.

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## Housing Within Reach Web Site Rollout

If "Home Is Where The Heart Is," then the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (TDMHDD) is opening the front door to plenty of warmth, joy and accessibility. Through its Housing Within Reach program the TDMHDD is launching a housing resource website today- very unique in its nature of comprehensive content - for Tennesseans diagnosed with mental illnesses or co-occurring disorders. Go to: [www.housingwithinreach.org](http://www.housingwithinreach.org) or [www.housingwithinreach.com](http://www.housingwithinreach.com).

"This is a housing vehicle that is innovative and cutting-edge," said TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. "The website will provide an avenue of access and choice, which will lead to increased independence for Tennesseans with mental illness. It will be a vital tool in our work to provide them the opportunity to live full lives."

The website, entitled "Housing Within Reach," is structured to provide easy access to comprehensive housing options, funding sources and other housing related information. A strong focus was placed on the website's design, language and ease of navigation. Some of its wide-ranging options are:

- **WHERE TO START:** Information on case management, TennCare and housing developer assistance.
- **CONSUMER HOUSING**

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## Hampton Retires After 37 Years With State

### ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER KNOWN FOR LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION



**T**ennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (TDMHDD) Assistant Commissioner Melanie Hampton retired December 31 after 37 years of service.

"Melanie made innumerable contributions to this department," said

TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. "Her leadership and dedication made her one of the most respected persons in state government. We wish the very best in her new endeavors. She will be greatly missed."

A native of Chattanooga, Tenn., Hampton received her BS and Masters degrees from Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro and a EDS from George Peabody College in Nashville. She joined the TDMHDD in 1966 as a recreational therapist at Clover Bottom Developmental Center. During her tenure Hampton also served as a vocational rehabilitation counselor, Director of Community Mental Health Programs, Director of Institute Services and Assistant Superintendent for Institute Program Services.

Known for her warmth, caring and generosity Hampton focused on

associates and patients, fostering teamwork and providing a healthy, productive, environment. She also had a reputation for getting things accomplished.

"The parts of her career she enjoyed most were "hands-on," said TDMHDD Deputy Assistant Commissioner Marthagem Whitlock. "She liked serving and being at the grass roots level. "A people person all the way – but firm. Under Melanie you did your job and you did it right."

A new phase of Hampton's career has begun. She has joined Foundations in Nashville, a company that provides a continuum of care for persons with co-occurring disorders. It is another avenue for her skills and personality to bring benefit to other people. She will be missed.



**Taking a Stand Against Suicide:** Clark Flatt (center, with proclamation) is joined by Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts, (left center), state officials and staff, and Jason Foundation, Inc. staff outside Senate Chambers at the state capitol on January 16 after the reading of the proclamation commending the Jason Foundation, Inc. on its efforts to combat teen suicide.

Jason Foundation, Inc. was started in 1997 with a stated mission to "help educate young people, parents, teachers, and others who work with young people about youth suicide." The Jason Foundation is committed to helping young people deal with the pressures of growing up by offering choices other than suicide as an answer to problems.

### Foundations Associates Implements Program

Foundations Associates has implemented a Partial Hospitalization Program to meet the needs of Medicare patients with co-occurring disorders.

The program is designed to offer an extensive form of outpatient treatment while allowing the individual the option of residing in the comfort of his or her own home.

The staff at Foundations will provide an assessment using the ASAM assessment guide. This will determine the level of service needed on an individualized basis. After the completion of the admission process, service may begin immediately.

Call (615) 345-3205 or toll-free: (888) 869-9230, ext. 205.



## Crisis Program...continued

"However, most of the children we see have emotional or behavioral problems that can be resolved by working with the child, the parents and the community. Youth Villages provides very effective in-home counseling and community-based support."

"Psychiatric hospitalization sends the message that the child has a mental illness that can be controlled only by medication and medical interventions," he said. "Our research shows that parents and families are the keys to the long-term success of most children."

The positive results in Tennessee's Specialized Crisis Services program come at a time when other states are scrambling to improve service and reduce costs in programs for children. Illinois just outlined plans for a streamlined statewide program to screen children in psychiatric crisis situations and reduce unnecessary hospital stays.

Tennessee's move to a single statewide Specialized Crisis Services program this past year reflected a change in philosophy - a move toward in-home and community-based care for children experiencing crisis. Parents and caregivers, mental health professionals, school and law enforcement officials around the state have been trained to call for crisis evaluation when: a child expresses serious suicidal or homicidal thoughts or behaviors; experiences severe depression; exhibits bizarre behavior, disorientation, confusion or hallucinations; or acts in a destructive manner.

The full report is available at:  
<http://www.youthvillages.org/scs/SCSRreport.pdf>

During their first six months in the SCS program, Youth Villages' crisis counselors worked from 13 offices around Tennessee.

Here's a look at what they did:

- Answered 4,278 crisis calls
- Posted a response time average of 51 minutes statewide from call to service
- Completed 2,680 face-to-face assessments
- Invested an average of two hours and 28 minutes per assessment
- Diverted 75 percent from psychiatric hospitals to less restrictive care options
- Served a diverse range of children from younger than 8 to 18; kids age 15 to 17 accounted for 50 percent; kids 12 to 14 accounted for 27 percent of the total
- Posted a 91 percent overall satisfaction score among 600 referral sources who rated Youth Villages' performance in six service categories
- Received a 95 percent overall satisfaction score among 130 parents who rated performance in seven service categories including "staff listened to you" and "professionalism"

Not-for-profit Youth Villages is the largest private provider of mental health services to children and families in the state of Tennessee.

Along with Specialized Crisis Services, Youth Villages offers a nationally-acclaimed home-based counseling program, therapeutic foster care and adoption, group homes, residential treatment, a family-based program for children with severe developmental disabilities and a shelter for runaway and homeless teens.

## Housing...continued

**OPTIONS:** A comprehensive listing of housing options with contact and tutorial assistance.

- **CONSUMER RIGHTS:** How to identify abusive situations and where and how to report them.

"This website is incredible work in the name of housing access," said Deborah Wolkhamer, director of the Housing Within Reach program. "We are responding to a significant need. This is a model, which we hope will be used many times over in the future."

Housing Within Reach derives from the TDMHDD's highly successful Creating Homes Initiative (CHI). CHI is the department's strategic plan to partner with communities to create housing options for people with mental illness and co-occurring disorders.

Housing Within Reach is funded by a Real Choice Systems Change Grant awarded to the TDMHDD by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the amount of \$1.8 million.

In addition to instituting an effective, consumer-directed housing resource system, its other goal is to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. Housing Within Reach aims to change attitudes and misconceptions regarding community housing for persons with mental illness and co-occurring disorders thus fostering a welcoming environment for residents of Tennessee neighborhoods.

"This new program is a product of vision, commitment, hard work and collaboration by a great many people who strive to enrich the lives of persons with mental illness," said Marie Williams, TDMHDD Director of Housing Planning and Development.

## Happenings

### Womack Wins Eli Lilly Lifetime Achievement Award

Pam Womack, Chief Executive Officer of the Mental Health Cooperative (MHC), was recently awarded the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company's first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award.



Honored at the company's annual "Helping Move Lives Forward Reintegration Awards" program which recognizes consumers succeeding in their battle with mental illness and individuals who contribute toward consumer reintegration, Womack was cited for her contributions to the many lives she encountered over the course of her career.

Armed with a Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Tennessee, Womack has contributed her talents toward the goals of the then named Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. While with the state, she played a hand in many major accomplishments as Director of Service System Development. In 1993, she left the state and began work at the MHC where she plays a pivotal role in the care of over 4500 individuals.

### Wolkhamer Appointed to Board for Social Work Licensure and Certification

Deborah Wolkhamer, CMSW, Project Director for the Real Choice Systems Change, TDMHDD, was recently appointed to the Board for Social Work Licensure and Certification. It is a five year appointment in a CMSW (Certified Master Social Worker) position. The Board oversees Social Work Licensure and certification issues for State SWR, including professional and ethical review, audits and licensure issues.

### Ridgeview Welcomes New Psychiatrist

Okon Enyenihi, M.D., has joined the medical staff of Ridgeview, a community mental health center, based in Oak Ridge.

His primary responsibility at Ridgeview is as interdisciplinary team leader on the inpatient unit. Other duties include serving as a clinical consultant with the DACT team (Dual Assertive Community Treatment) that offers structured integrated treatment to homeless persons with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse conditions.

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